or they may belong to a kolkhos. Very infrequently they work for richer peasants. The kolkhoses cover (in 1955) an estimated 18 per cent of the total arable land and approximately 200,000 families are connected with them. 471 241 [474]

Those who work on the kolkhoses are looked down upon by the other peasants, for they do not work on their own, according to time-honored methods, but go to work for a share or a salary and thus have little or no opportunity for individual achievement. [558]

There are numerous beliefs and superstitions connected with agriculture and livestock breeding. To enumerate them would take dozens of pages. Work on the farm and the field fills the peasants life completely; most of his professional know-how comes through tradition and experience, both of which are apt to develop set habits and customs. There are well-defined ways of doing certain agricultural work, for example that of binding wheat into sheaves: this is the way everyone does it and this is how their ancestors did it. It is rather difficult to teach new farming methods to the peasants, although the present regime appears to be making headway. The most important customs are the ones associated with the days of the year: There are auspicious days (mostly saints' days) when one should plant or 241